

REMARKS

By the above actions, claim 96 has been amended. In view of the actions taken and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 96-104, 106, 107, & 109-113 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Lee and Fleming references, while claim 105 has been found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Lee, Herng-Chuen and Kawabe patents and claim 108 based upon the combined teachings of the Lee, Herng-Chuen and Landry. These rejections are inappropriate, at least to the extent that they relate to the claims as now presented for the following reasons.

The Examiner's assessment of the disclosure of Lee with regard to the pending claims is inappropriate because the terms "front surface," "side edge faces" and "rear surface" are clearly defined to be surfaces of the housing of the digital computer according to feature a) of claim 96.

That is, none of these references disclose the three manners of use for an input device that is set forth in amended claim 96:

an input device having input means on at least one surface for at least one of inputting and manipulating information, the input device being an input module which is **movable from a position accessible at the front face of the computer with respect to the housing to a position in an oppositely facing orientation that enables the inputting or manipulating of information at ~~of~~ the rear surface of the digital computer housing instead of at the front surface** of the computer housing, and is electrically connected to the digital computer via at least one interface, said input device also being operable for inputting or manipulating of information in a decoupled state disengaged from the housing.

As such, all of the outstanding rejections should be withdrawn.

Therefore, in the absence of new and more relevant prior art being discovered, this application should now be in condition for allowance and action to that effect is requested. However, while it is believed that this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain, or any new issues arise, after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the

Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for the purpose of resolving any such issue and thereby facilitating prompt approval of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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